

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06192 201602Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO USICA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6850
VOA KAVALA
VOA RHODES

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USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: VOA LEASE AGREEMENT

REF: ATHENS 6008

1. THE CHARGE, PAO AND KRS MANAGER MET THURSDAY AT FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH AMBASSADOR MAVROMICHAELIS AND MR. MAHERITSAS OF THE MFA'S LEGAL STAFF, PLUS TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF ERT (MESSRS. KASMAS AND KOKKASIS) AND MR. ANTONIOU OF THE GOG'S MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS. KASMAS IS ERT'S DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES.

2. MEETING WAS DEVOTED MOSTLY TO DISCUSSION OF MFA'S MEMORANDUM (SEE ATHENS 5527). THE GREEK TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES RESPONDED TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WE POSED. THESE ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW IN PARAGRAPH 6.

3. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE NEXT SERIES OF NEGOTIATING MEETINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED SOON AFTER SEPTEMBER 15 AT WHICH TIME VOA'S COUNTER PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED AND WHEN WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DRAFT A NEW LEASE AGREEMENT. AGENCY SHOULD PLAN TO SEND
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WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS FOR THESE MEETINGS. WE WILL ADVISE SPECIFIC DATE SOMETIME IN AUGUST. DATE WAS SET FOR MID-SEPTEMBER BECAUSE MOST GREEK OFFICIALS TAKE THEIR SUMMER HOLIDAYS BEFORE THEN.

4. IN THE COURSE OF THURSDAY'S MEETING WE RAISED QUESTION OF STATUS, PRIVILEGES AND EXEMPTIONS FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL. WE

ASKED WHETHER OUR EARLIER EXPLANATIONS WERE ACCEPTABLE; I.E. - THAT THESE U.S. PERSONNEL ARE AGENCY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS, AND THEREFORE MUST BE PART OF MISSION'S ROSTER. THEY ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF VOA TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN OTHER OVERSEAS RELAY STATIONS. WE REPLIED THAT THESE ENJOYED SAME IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES AS OTHER U.S. MISSION TECHNICAL AND STAFF PERSONNEL. MFA REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT PREPARED TO AGREE BUT SAID THEY WOULD RETURN TO THIS MATTER WHEN WE MEET IN SEPTEMBER.

5. OTHER POINTS THAT WERE DISCUSSED AT MEETING INCLUDED A DECISION TO HOLD AN INTERIM TECHNICAL MEETING WITH ERT'S AND TRANSPORT/ COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES ON THURSDAY, JULY 27. WE WERE ALSO INVITED TO VISIT ERT'S AVLIS TRANSMITTER SITE THE SAME DAY. IN ADDITION WHEN WE DISCUSSED THEIR REQUEST FOR A NEW 250 KW SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTER WE NOTED THAT THIS WOULD NECESSITATE A SPECIFIC U.S. CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE USG'S BUDGET CYCLE.

6. THE GOG'S CLARIFICATION OF THEIR JULY 3 MEMORANDUM WAS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 - THE 50 KW TRANSMITTER TO WHICH THE GOG WANTS TITLE IS LOCATED AT ZANTE (ZAKINTHOS). THIS TRANSMITTER WAS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH 7 OF THE 1962 AGREEMENT.

SECTION 2 - WE ARE BEING ASKED TO CONTINUE FURNISHING TIME ON THE 500 KW TRANSMITTERS AT BOTH KAVALA AND RHODES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW SCHEDULES PROVIDED IN ATHENS 5527. THEY ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTED THAT GMT TIME DESIGNATIONS POSE DIFFICULTY FOR ERT'S PROGRAM SCHEDULING AND IMPLEMENTATION BECAUSE OF ANNUAL LOCAL DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME. GREEK LOCAL TIME IS GMT PLUS 2 HOURS IN WINTER AND PLUS THREE IN SUMMER.

SECTION 3 - THIS IS A REITERATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENT'S ALLOCATION OF THE 250 KW SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTER AT KRS WHICH IS FOR GOG'S 24 HOUR USE. WE NOTED THE NECESSITY OF PERMITTING A SCHEDULED TIME SPAN FOR DOWN TIME FOR TESTING AND MAINTENANCE. ERT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENTED THEIR ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES THIS IS POSING FOR THEIR BROADCAST SCHEDULE AND REQUESTED THAT WE EXAMINE, ALTERNATE MEANS TO MEET THEIR NEED FOR 24 HOUR USE AND OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING AND MAINTENANCE. THIS MATTER WILL BE TAKEN UP AT JULY 27 TECHNICAL MEETING. IN ADDITION, THE CONFUSION ABOUT THE SCHEDULE OF OPERATION FOR THE 250 KW TRANSMITTER LISTED IN ATHENS 5527 - QUOTE TIMETABLE UNQUOTE WAS CLASSIFIED. WHAT WAS INTENDED WAS TO SHOW THE USE OF ONE ANTENNA/FREQUENCY FOR ONE GIVEN TIME. ANOTHER ANTENNA/ FREQUENCY SHOWN FOR THE SAME TIME PERIOD WOULD BE IN RESPONSE TO DICTATES OF SEASONAL PROPAGATION. THE ENTRIES IN THE LISTING FOLLOWING H9A ARE RESERVED FOR THE AVLIS SITE OPERATION AND WERE NOT INTENDED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ON OTHER KAVALA TRANSMITTERS DURING THE 2200-2350 GMT TIME PERIOD.

SECTION 4 - THE GOG IS ASKING FOR A 250 KW SHORT-WAVE TRANS-MITTER TO BE INSTALLED BY USG AT AVLIS AND CONNECTED THROUGH ANTENNA SWITCHING EQUIPMENT, ALSO TO BE FURNISHED BY US, TO THEIR EXISTING ANTENNAS. WE WOULD ALSO FURNISH AND INSTALL TWO ADDITIONAL ANTENNAS. PLEASE NOTE THAT 15 MHZ ANTENNA TYPE IN SECTION 4A SHOULD READ QUOTE TYPE HR 2/4/0.5 UNQUOTE NOT 055 AS GIVEN. BALANCE OF SECTION IS CORRECT.

SECTION 5 - THIS PARAGRAPH WAS ALSO CONFUSING AND INACCURATE. IT SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GIVE FIRM ASSURANCE THAT VOA ACTIVITIES (IN GREECE) WILL NOT BE OPERATED IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO CAUSE INTERFERENCE TO RADIO OR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE UNQUOTE.

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